

# SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

## 2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3

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- Summer Friendship Gathering events lasts three evenings and each evening is divided into three parts: fellowship meal, worship time with a large group lesson, and small group discussion. On the last evening there is a closing worship service, which replaces the Large Group Bible Lesson and Small Group Discussion time.
- As you start preparing your lesson a good place to start is to pray asking the Holy Spirit to give you insight and direction.
- You will find an illustrated sample video for this Day 3 Lesson along with the other Summer Friendship Gathering training videos. You are encouraged to watch this video as you plan your lesson.
- The theme for this year's Summer Friendship Gathering is "Called Out of Your Boat." We are not actually talking about getting out of our blow-up kayak or luxury yacht, but we are going to study how we can eagerly jump out of our old way of doing things and what we want to do. Instead, Jesus is calling each of us to go and do the things He wants us to do. We join Jesus in His mission.



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# 2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- This week we will be studying Peter's journey to follow Jesus' calling on his life. We will be talking a lot about how we are also called to follow Jesus and love one another.
- Our theme verse for these three lessons comes from John 12:26 (NIRV) ***"Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."***
- It's a good idea to review Days 1 and 2 at the beginning of your lesson.
- On day 1 we learned how Jesus called Peter from being an ordinary fisherman to a fisher of men. By faith Peter trusted Jesus and left everything behind to follow Him.
- On Day 2 we saw how Peter grew in his faith when Jesus called him to step out of his boat and walk on the water in the middle of a big storm. We learned that Jesus calls us to step out in faith and out of our comfort zone to do the hard things as we follow Him.
- In today's lesson we will see Peter jump out of his boat in excitement and swim to Jesus! In this lesson, Jesus calls Peter back to His mission after he denied Jesus and went back to fishing for fish instead of fishing for men.
- The Bible verse for Day 3 is ***John 21:16, "Peter, do you love Me?" "Yes Lord, you know that I love You." Jesus said, "Take care of My sheep."***

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## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- Our Lesson begins after Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the dead. He had already appeared to his disciples twice.
- One day when Peter and several disciples were by the Sea of Galilee, Peter thought it would be a good idea to go fishing. He went back to what he knew best, back to the same boat Jesus called him out of. Back to something familiar.
- ***You can ask the question if they have ever taken the easy way. Back to what they thought they were good at or was comfortable.***
- He and the other disciples fished all night, but they caught nothing. This is a good lesson for all of us. Apart from Jesus, there is nothing of value that we can do.
- ““Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, don’t you have any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish.” When they did, they could not pull the net into the boat because there were so many fish.””
- ***Ask the group, does this story sound familiar? Do you remember another time Jesus surprised the disciples with a boat load of fish? That’s right in our story on Day One. You can have our friends briefly retell the story of when Jesus first met Peter and provided a miracle catch of fish.***

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## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- Who was this man on the shore? They still were not sure. One of the disciples realized who it was and said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”.... As soon as Peter heard “It is The Lord”, he **jumped out** of the boat and swam to Jesus while the other disciples followed in the boat.”
- ***Spend some time here to discuss with the group, why do you think Peter jumped out of his boat?***
- Peter’s exuberant response from seeing his Lord compelled him to jump into the water and get to Jesus as fast as he could. The boat couldn’t move quick enough for Peter. This was his Lord, His Teacher, The Son of God!
- ***A good question to ask here is, Like Peter, are you eager to spend time with Jesus?***
- Jesus gave them a gift, another net full of fish! He loved them and wanted to bless them.  
Jesus already had breakfast cooking for them.  
Jesus told Peter to bring him some of the fish they had caught.  
Jesus invited the disciples to join him for breakfast, an ordinary thing to do.  
Jesus loves us and invites us also into everyday fellowship with Him.
- ***This would be a good place to talk about how we have spent time with Jesus during our ordinary times.***
- After breakfast, Jesus pulled Peter aside. He asked him three times, “Do you love Me?” Peter answered three times, “Yes, Lord you know that I love You.” But after the third time Peter was sad that he had to be asked three times.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- He answered, “Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”
- ***Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times “Do you love me?” Why did it hurt Peter?***
- Do you remember before Jesus was crucified Peter denied Him three times? Even after Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, Jesus is still re-inviting Peter back into His mission. God will always re-invite us back into His mission even when we fail.
- ***Ask our friends why they think Jesus told Peter to take care of his sheep? Did Jesus have sheep somewhere in a pasture that Peter didn’t know about?***
- Jesus was not asking him to take care of sheep, but to take care of His people. Often the Bible refers to God’s people as sheep. In **Psalm 95:7 He is our God. We are the sheep belonging to his flock. We are the people he takes good care of.**
- ***Ask our friends to share ways that they have taken care of God’s people. Maybe, Jesus is inviting you, or re-inviting you, to join Him in this mission.***
- In 1 Corinthians 12 we learn that the Holy Spirit gives us “spiritual gifts, or abilities, that are intended for the good of all, not just us.
- In our story, Peter shared his fish, the fish he could not have caught without Jesus. Later, he would preach a sermon with the spiritual gifts God gave him and 3,000 people would come to believe in Jesus that day.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- We have also been given spiritual gifts, or abilities that are just as important as Peters. We can use them as part of Jesus' mission.
- ***At the end of your lesson you can ask everyone, what are some spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has given you? They may need some examples.***
- Maybe you have the gift of encouragement. You can show someone they are loved by giving them a hug, a smile, or an encouraging word.
- You could have the gift of teaching and share what you learned at Friendship Group with a friend.
- You may have the gift of serving. You could help your family or the staff with chores or helping someone at work. This shows your friends that you care about them.
- You can pray with someone who is hurting or sick. You can even pray for people you don't know after a storm, an earthquake, or victims from a war.
- What an amazing three days this has been! Because Jesus loved Peter and called him to join Him in His mission, Peter was transformed from being a sinful fisherman to a saved fisher of men for Jesus.
- Peter would live the rest of his life following Jesus and sharing the good news of Jesus everywhere he went.

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## **2023 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING**

### **LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED**

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- Jesus loves us so much and calls us to follow Him. He calls to step out of our comfort zone and jump out to join Him to accomplish His work in the world.

There are four main points to be made in this lesson. It will be important that each of these points are covered in your lesson because they will be part of the small group discussion questions.

- 1. The first point is, Jesus is with us always! He wants to be present with us in the good times, the bad times, special times, and in ordinary times of our lives.**
  - 2. The second point is, Peter was excited and jumped out of his boat. We also need to jump at the privilege to follow Jesus.**
  - 3. The third thing to remember is, when we fail, Jesus is always near to remind us of our calling. He will re-invite us back to his mission.**
  - 4. The fourth point to discuss is that God gives each of us spiritual gift through the Holy Spirit to help take care of God's people.**
- The gifts we are given are not to be used for ourselves but to serve and love others. This is how we can join Jesus in accomplishing His mission to the world.
  - There are many ways God could be calling us to take care of His sheep. He may be calling us to love our roommate or the people we live with, even when they are unlovable.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- Maybe it's choosing to forgive a friend that has hurt us because Jesus has forgiven us. Or maybe He is calling us to stop and pray with someone who is going through a difficult time. Maybe He wants you to invite someone to Friendship group!
- When we do these things and more, we are joining Jesus in His mission.
- As you plan out the flow of your lesson, you can choose to use, or not use the optional skit or object lesson. These resources can be used before your first telling of the story or afterwards. This is up to you.
- It is important to find more than one way to tell the story. Visuals and illustrations will help with learning. Most people learn best if the lesson combines different techniques, or modes of learning. You have access to the PowerPoint slides of the story provided on the flash drive with the curriculum and on our website.
- On Day 3 there are no Discussion Groups. However, you can still review the Large Group Lesson with the Day 3 Discussion questions found in the Discussion Booklets that everyone takes home. It is still important to include the discussion questions in your large group Bible lesson.
- It is best to reinforce the main points with our adult friends. This helps them with a smoother transition into the small group discussion time which follows the large group lesson.